

REMARKS

Claims 7-10 are pending in the present application after cancellation of claim 6 in this Amendment. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 7-8 contain allowable subject matter.

The Examiner indicated that the "cross-reference to the continuation data of PCT/DE00/01088 filed 04/08/00 is missing." Applicant notes that the present application is not a "continuation" of, or a separate application from, PCT/DE00/01088; instead, the present application is a national-phase application of PCT/DE00/01088 filed under 35 U.S.C. § 371. Accordingly, the cross-reference provision of 37 C.F.R. 1.78 (dealing with a separate, earlier-filed application) is not pertinent.

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 9 as being unpatentable over Wietzke et al. (DE 19,632,197) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,400,958 ("Isomursu et al."). Furthermore, the Examiner objected to claim 6 for several informalities. Applicant has canceled claim 6, and claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of now-canceled claim 6, as well as incorporating changes to eliminate the informalities of claim 6 noted by the Examiner. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 7. Accordingly, amended claim 7 and its dependent claims 8 and 9 are now in allowable condition.

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witzke et al. in view of Isomursu et al. and further in view of U.S. patent No. 6,216,227 ("Goldstein et al."). Applicant has amended claim 10 to depend from allowable claim 7, so claim 10 is now in allowable condition.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7-10 are in condition for allowance. A prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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